

**TRANSACTIONS OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF CARDIOLOGY—Volume IV—1954.** Editors, Simon Dack, M.D., and Bruno Kisch, M.D. Published by the American College of Cardiology, 140 West 57th Street, New York 19, N. Y., 1955. 319 pages, \$5.00.

This volume presents the papers of the Third Annual Convention of the American College of Cardiology held in Chicago in May, 1954. Very little new material was presented but a number of interesting reviews and personal opinions were expressed. The importance of diet in various types of cardiac disease has been given a good deal of attention in various panels with particular emphasis on restriction of salt, calories, and fat.

Gofman has a number of contributions indicating his present position with respect to diet and lipoproteins. The paper by Dack and Robbin, in which they have reviewed the predisposing and causative factors of atherosclerosis, is particularly timely. The surgical aspects of cardiac disease are mentioned briefly, but the newer aspects of surgical treatment are underplayed.

The book will be of interest for those wishing to have discussions of selected items in the cardiological field.

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**THE KIDNEY—Ciba Foundation Symposium.** Edited by A. A. G. Lewis, M.D., for the Renal Association, and G. E. W. Wolstenholme, O.B.E., M.A., M.B., B.Ch., for the Ciba Foundation, Little, Brown and Company, Boston, 1954. 333 pages, \$6.75.

This volume, like other symposia of the Ciba Foundation, embodies the verbatim proceedings of a conference of outstanding participants from several countries. General subjects included structural and functional relationships, tubular transport, regulation of acid-base balance, electrolyte excretion, and control of volume of body fluid. Each presentation of original research or review of present knowledge on the specific topic was followed by informal, penetrating discussion. This publication offers new material of interest to students of renal physiology in health and disease. The informed practitioner will find much fundamental information here, but not in predigested or "practical" form.

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**PSYCHOSURGERY AND THE SELF.** Mary Frances Robinson, Ph.D., and Walter Freeman, M.D. Grune & Stratton, New York, 1954. 118 pages, \$3.00.

Dr. Walter Freeman writes one short chapter summarizing the development and techniques of prefrontal lobotomy, transorbital lobotomy, topectomy and other psychosurgical procedures.

The remainder of the book is written by a psychologist, Mary Frances Robinson. This is a report on a research project in which the personality and psychological factors are studied in patients before and after psychosurgery. Details of the tests and testing methods are given together with various theories and conclusions. Nine pages of references in the field are given.

This is a book that will be of interest to psychologists and physicians working with these patients.

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**MEDICAL PROGRESS—1955—A Review of Medical Advances During 1954.** Morris Fishbein, M.D., Editor. The Blakiston Division, McGraw-Hill Book Company, New York, 1955. 346 pages, \$5.00.

This is the third volume in a series which began with 1953 Medical Progress. It is divided into 20 sections, all on different aspects of clinical medicine, each by a different author. Each author summarizes the work in his field during the year 1954 as he sees it. For the most part these summaries are essentially brief notices and reports which point the way for further reading. They cover much the same field as similar yearbook series.

**LECTURES ON THE SCIENTIFIC BASIS OF MEDICINE—Volume III, 1953-54.** British Postgraduate Medical Federation. University of London, The Athlone Press, 1955 —Published in New York, John de Graff, Inc., 64 West 23rd Street, New York 10.

In establishing this series of lectures, British medicine has really made a notable achievement. The high scientific quality of those who give the talks and the choice of important subjects are on the very best plane and must be of inestimable value to the general doctors who hear or read these talks. The present series, Volume Three for 1953-54, contains 21 lectures. The subjects vary from those which deal mainly with purely basic matters to those which are practical. Thus the first essay is entitled "Science and History" by H. E. Sigerist. Other fundamental subjects are "Reactions to Bacterial Invasion," "Antiviral Immunity," "The Genetics of Some Biochemical Abnormalities," etc. Of more immediate practical importance we have for example a lecture on "Antimalarial Drugs," one on the "Causes of Failure in Antibiotic Therapy" and one on "Stress and Thyroid Activity." The volume is handsomely gotten up and there are excellent bibliographies.

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**CEREBRAL VASCULAR DISEASES—Transactions of a Conference Held Under the Auspices of The American Heart Association, Princeton, New Jersey; January 24-26, 1954—Irving S. Wright, Chairman and E. Hugh Luckey, Editor.** Grune and Stratton, New York, 1955. 167 pages, \$5.50.

This short volume reports the contributions of a panel of experts to a conference on cerebral vascular disease. The presentation is that with which we are now familiar; the subject was broken up into 14 subheads, with an authority on each subject conducting the forum, and the contributions of the various members reported in stenographic style, slightly edited to be sure. This is of considerable interest if one is familiar with the contributors, but makes for confusion and difficult reading otherwise. Nonetheless, it is well worth surmounting this obstacle to acquire the knowledge contained in the report. Considering the importance of cerebral vascular disease, which is growing with an aging population, a better knowledge of present concepts of pathology and treatment is a great advantage to the practitioner. This book contains that knowledge, as presented by experts in the various fields, and is worthy of reading by every physician.

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**CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY—Fifth Edition—Abraham Cantarow, M.D., Professor of Biochemistry, Jefferson Medical College; and Max Trumper, Ph.D., Formerly Lecturer in Clinical Biochemistry and Basic Science Coordinator, Naval Medical School, National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda. W.B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1955. 738 pages, \$9.00.**

With the ever-increasing influence of laboratory aids in the evaluation of problems in clinical medicine the physician is constantly seeking books to enable him to keep abreast of biochemistry and physiology. This book is an effort to bridge the gap for the clinician between the fundamentals of biochemistry and bedside medicine. It is good, but in the reviewer's opinion not so good as other similar works which have appeared within the past two years. The material covered is essentially the same in Bodansky's *Biochemistry of Disease* and Hoffman's *Biochemistry in Clinical Medicine*, but in this particular book the organization and approach is not so good, the development of the material is not so thorough or usable from the standpoint of the clinician, and some areas which have grown remarkably in recent years are not adequately elaborated upon. It is a good book but better ones have appeared in similar fields within the past year.